CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Vladimir Oblast)

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SUBJECT Vladimir Tractor Factory

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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25X1

1. Name: The factory was officially called Vladimir Tractor Factory. The Soviet abbreviation for it was VTZ. In addition, the factory had the honor name Zhdanov.

2. Location: The tractor factory is situated about 3½ to 4 km WNW of the center of Vladimir, in connection with which the informant considers the location of the radio tower as the center of the city. A more exact location was not given because the area, broken by furrows and ravines, could not be scanned without interruption.

3. The tractor factory was founded in 1941. Since 1945, the installation has undergone constant expansion. The new foundry was among the last sections to be started. By July 1949 it was 90% finished; part of it was already in operation, while the other part was awaiting the necessary mechanical equipment. By autumn 1949, the factory roads should be built and asphalted. The roads crossing a marshy field have been washed out by too much rainfall; even the tractors built in the factory have been stuck on them.

4. Management: A Soviet who always wore civilian clothes is the manager of the factory. His personal assistant, however, was always in uniform. The commissions visiting the factory at brief intervals consisted partly of civilians and partly of the military. The informant attaches a special significance to three visits during the first half of 1949. One was a commission, the members of which were wearing the uniforms of the Soviet Armored Command. It seems plausible that it might have been an excursion for recruits, since a garrison for armored units is located in Vladimir. The other two visits

25X1

25X1 with the conversion of the factory to production of armored tanks, probably scheduled to take place in 1949. The last visit of representatives of the Armored Command took place in June 1949. There are in the tank factory no German engineers who are compelled to give their services. Instead, German scientists and technicians are reported to be working in the chemical factory in

25X1 Vladimir. synthetic material (various kinds of material of a rubbery consistency) is being manufactured in the chemical factory. German technicians came to Vladimir with their families. As compared with Soviet conditions, their standard

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of living can be classified as excellent. They receive a minimum salary of 2000 rubles. They are even offered opportunities to buy at cost prices (Einkaufsmogochkeiten). PWs were strictly forbidden to approach German civilians under compulsory service whom they met by chance in the city.

5. The size of the factory area is estimated to be approximately 900x 800 m. The greater length is to be found in the north-south extensions. The northern part of the area is still not entirely built up.

25X1
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6. The technical equipment of the factory [redacted] does not compare with the equipment associated with a German industry of a similar nature. In the Vladimir Tractor Factory, for instance, there are large American-made presses, which are too heavy for the present production and cannot be fully utilized. It may be that they were built with regard to a possible later change in production or expansion. Machinery with an inadequate capacity was also set up in the factory. Nevertheless, it was utilized for very heavy work. The outcome usually was that these machines could withstand overloading for only a short time. Screw drivers which fit were seldom to be had. If nuts could not be removed from large bolts by chisel, they were burned off with a welder's torch. Among larger lathes and machinery, those of American manufacture predominate. The smaller automatons and metal-working machinery were made, for the most part, in German factories.

7. The most important installations of the factory are:

a. The old foundry, housed in a building 120x150 m. which appears to be divided into several wings in the southeastern part of the factory compound. Pig-iron castings (Grauguss) as well as cast steel are made here in a Siemens electric furnace and in 5 coke furnaces. The furnaces are located on the east side of the building and occupy an automatic alloying installation. A moveable crane equipped with an electric magnet plays an important part in this operation. Raw material is brought into the casting shop on a railroad spur. The mould construction shop is also housed in a separate room, very close to the furnaces, in the same section. The moulding shop and polishing shop are housed in the same large building.

b. The new foundry, divided into several sections, started operations in the spring of 1949. Pig-iron castings, as well as cast steel, are made here also. The large building complex with several wings (medrschiffig) is approximately 130x160 m. and has an inner courtyard. The pig-iron casting section is located in the northern half of the installation, whereas the cast steel section is located in the eastern part of the building. [redacted]

25X1
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The main entrance is located on the east side of the building complex. This new installation is equipped with a modern, efficient crane installation.

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c. Machine shop and press and die section are located in a large building in the southwestern corner of the factory compound. This building also has several wings and measures 130x150 m.

25X1

d. The forge is situated exactly east of the new foundry. [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] the size of the building complex as 90x130 m. The forge has about 6 hydraulic steam hammers, the heaviest of which has an estimated 5-ton capacity.

e. The assembly section is to the left of the main entrance, west of the green embellished by a 7 m. high Stalin monument. The sections to be occupied by the assembly are equipped with flow-belt devices (Flusbandvorrichtungen) which are, for some reason or another, usually not in operation. The assembly section is among the largest buildings and measures 130x150 m.

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f. Motor Construction takes place in the large building to the right of the main entrance and just east of the assembly section just discussed. The size of the building is estimated at 120x150 m. The motor construction section builds various motors required for production. Just one type of motor, known as the tractor Universal, has been produced since the beginning of the production in the factory.

g. The boiler house, 65x25 m., is in the eastern part of the factory compound and belongs to the smaller buildings of the installation. The boiler house reportedly provides steam solely for the various work shops; it is not used to generate current. Four or five steel pipe-furnaces are in the boiler house. One draft-type chimney with sheet-steel flues rises on the west side of the boiler house.

h. The compressor installation is east of the forge discussed under "d". Three large electric compressors are here to run the hammers, presses, and dies, as long as their use does not seem to be desired elsewhere. The cooling tower situated north of the installation contains cold water for the compressors.

i. Storage depots and material storage areas are scattered over the entire compound. Two rather small storage depots containing electric equipment are east of the old foundry. Paint and varnish are kept in a small storage building which is located west of the new foundry. The considerably larger so-called spare-parts storage, provided with a special ramp for railroad use, rises north of this small storage depot. A rather large portion of area which is still vacant has been staked off almost in the northwestern corner of the compound. Finished tractors are often parked here by the hundreds before they are loaded on freight cars. On occasion, the total production of 2-3 months has been parked in this place. East of this parking area, somewhat in the center of the compound, are 2 rather small buildings where oxygen is generated and bottled. Oxygen is also stored here. Even the carbide storage depot is now established here. A little more to the east from here is the fuel storage area, an open space where barrels of gasoline are often stacked high in a specially enclosed area. South of the fuel storage area, is a large storage depot for iron and steel. It is a spacious building, outfitted with 2 shifting-cranes (Kranbahnen) and with 3-and 5-ton electric cranes which the informant helped to build. Profile-iron and sheet metal of all kinds lie here until they are required for use in production. This building has been in use since the second half of 1948. An oil storage depot, sunk half-way into the earth, has been established east of this iron and steel storage depot. Only the approximately square outline of one building of this depot is to be seen from above. Farther east of the iron and oil depots, large coal and peat piles for the boiler house are situated to the right and left of the railroad tracks which join the main spur there.

j. The various workshops are housed in the main buildings of the section to which they belong; for instance, the mould construction shop, which is in the old foundry. The laboratory is situated in a special building east of and adjacent to the compressor installation. The testing of material is preferably conducted here.

k. Administration and Offices. Conforming to a more and more uniform system, almost all places of administration and other offices are housed together with their corresponding sections. Usually it is a building of more than one-story, situated to the front of the shop complex. Thus, the administrative offices of the Vladimir Tractor Factory are to be found in the Assembly Section. The construction offices are located in the 3-story building at the front of the old foundry. All of these administration buildings are provided with flat roofs.

8. The raw material is brought in from the outside in the form of profile iron, sheet metal, and iron bars. The bars of iron, which arrive by railroad, are straightway brought into the foundry, and there, by means of a crane with a magnet, are lifted, carried to the scene of action, and delivered to the alloying installation.

9. The production of finished tractors reportedly went up to 40 per day in July 1949. It is a small type of tractor which, under the name Universal , is also in use in the East Zone of Germany. The tractor Universal is equipped with a 4-cylinder Otto motor and has a speed of 35-40 km per hour. It develops from 35-40 hp. This type and also others are recognized by the steering wheel, which lies in a vertical position. Up until the present, approximately 20 tractors of a heavier series, the construction of which is not to be started before fall, have been produced for testing purposes. The factory is also engaged in the production of cast aluminum (plates) to a limited extent. An investigation was made of the factory as a result of extremely faulty production. No PWs were permitted to work on any phase of the production process after July 1949. [redacted] moulds, [redacted] had been used for the casting of constantly needed tractor parts, being carefully carried by hand from the moulding shop (Kerrmacherei) located in the old foundry to the new foundry, probably to give the PWs working in the compound the impression that only parts for tractors would be made in the new foundry. Meanwhile, the equipment of the new foundry is being made suitable for the production of much heavier pieces of machinery. [redacted] the armored tanks or tank parts are to be manufactured in Vladimir as a result of the aforementioned visits of the Armored Command commissions.

10. The personnel consisted of approximately 5,000 persons during the summer of 1949; many of these were adolescents and women. Since 3 May 1949 work has been done in 3 shifts, whereas the working day was previously limited to 2 shifts. [redacted] the Soviets will have difficulty working three shifts without assistance from German PWs. Before their departure, German PWs spent several days in quarantine and were not permitted to work. Three days after withdrawal of the PWs, there was such feverish activity in the buildings and various sections of the foundry that people could hardly move, and there was no further possibility of getting the finished castings out of the building. Thus, on the last day, the PWs were set to work once more, arranging equipment.

11. The factory guard was very heavy, consisting of approximately 150 men. The fence is broken up by watch towers. In addition to this, important installations such as the compressor installation, boiler house, and oil storage depot have their own guard. Militia were used for guarding PWs and for accompanying them in groups to the site of their work.

12. Electricity for the Vladimir Tractor Factory up to 1947 was generated by a special [redacted] machine. Two steam engines were used as source of energy. The machine [redacted] had an output of 500-600 kw. A power installation (probably belonging to the Vladimir Factory) seems to be located outside of the factory compound. A special transformer installation is located in the open outside the fence on the east side of the factory compound. Various high-tension wires converge at this place. The central transformer for the factory buildings is in the center of the compound, between the forge, iron storage depot, and new foundry. [redacted] a second transformer installation between the PW compound (factory building) and the boiler house.

13. A railroad spur with many ramifications enters the factory area from the north. Almost every important section has its own spur. Four locomotives belonging to the factory (3 very heavy steam engines and one Deutz diesel locomotive) provide shunting and delivery service.

Attachments: 1. Vladimir Tractor Factory.
2. Sketch showing location of factory in Vladimir.

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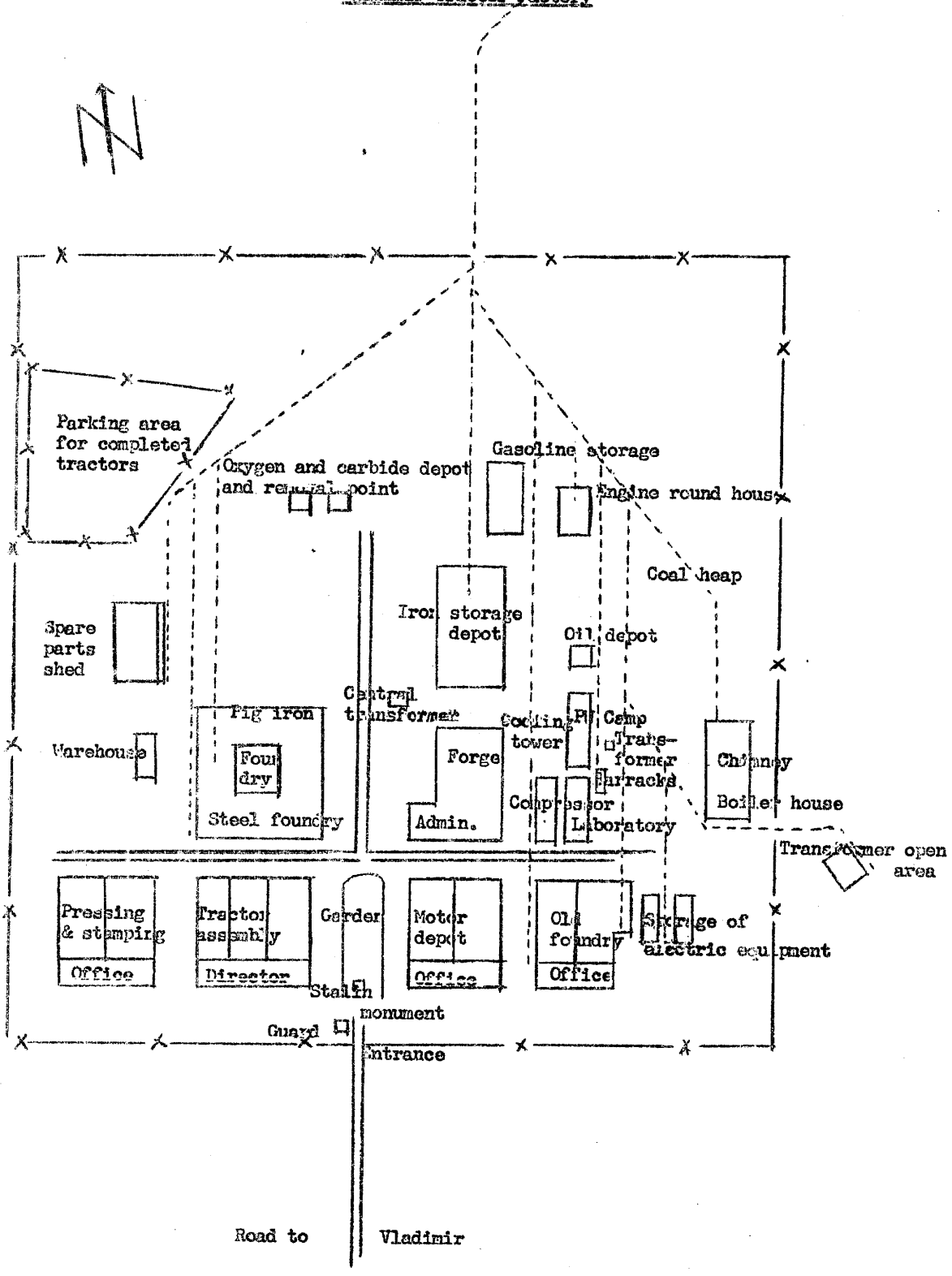
ATTACHMENT 1

Vladimir Tractor Factory



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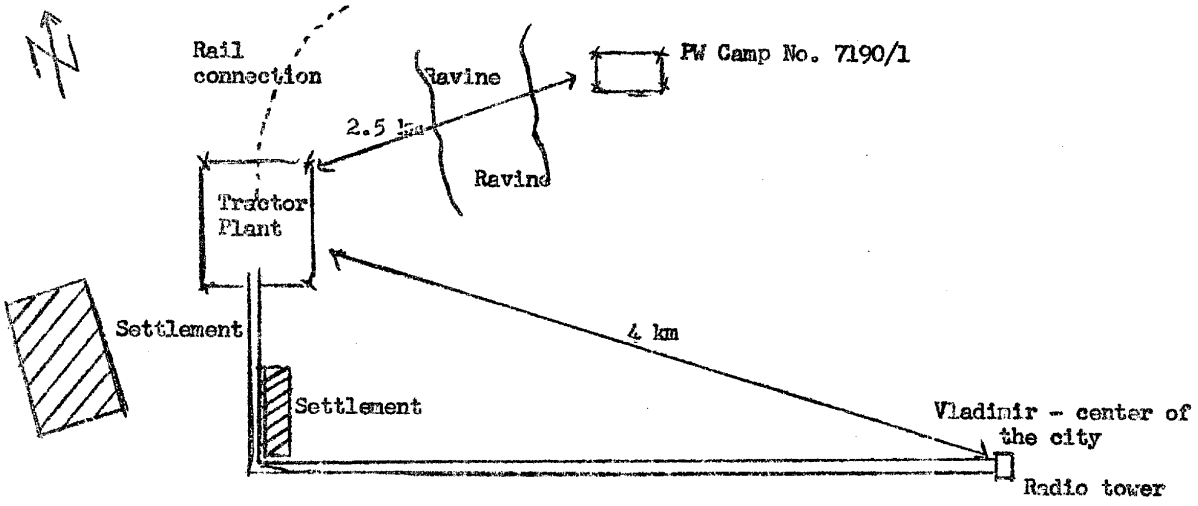
ATTACHMENT 2

Vladimir - Tractor Works Sketch Plan



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